DEVELOPMENT SECRETARIAT.

Grants certain concessions to Village Panchayets that engage themselves in Agricultural work.

READ—

Government Order No. L. 3592-93—A. & E. 96-23-2, dated 14th November 1923, sanctioning the proposal of the Director of Agriculture to charge a general percentage of ten per cent as profit on implements, seeds and manures and allowing five per cent out of it to Co-operative Societies in respect of the sales made through them and directing that no separate establishment or overhead charges be levied.

2. Letter No. I. D. 1367, dated 30th November 1928, from the Director of Agriculture, recommending for reasons stated the grant of similar concessions to Village Panchayets that engage themselves in Agricultural work, such as purchase and sale of implements, seeds, manures and other appliances.

ORDER NO. D. 7018-28—A. & E. 170-28-2, DATED 7TH JANUARY 1929.

The recommendation of the Director of Agriculture is sanctioned.

N. RAMA RAO,
Secretary to Government,
Development Departments.

Reviews the Report on the working of the Department of Mines and Explosives for the year 1927-28.

READ—

Correspondence ending with letter No. 463, dated the 19th September 1928, from the Officiating Chief Inspector of Mines, submitting the Administration Report of the Department of Mines and Explosives for the year 1927-28.

ORDER NO. D. 6997-7008—GEOL. 45-28-4, DATED 7TH JANUARY 1929.

Recorded.

2. *Personnel.*—Mr. C. E. Suryanarayana Rao was acting as Chief Inspector of Mines during the absence of Mr. R. Bocquet on combined leave.

The work of the Department was on the whole satisfactory though the growing volume of business had to be attended to by the staff which was working short-handed owing to the absence of one of the officers.

3. *Mining and Prospecting.*—The following statement shows the number of leases, licenses, and certificates of approval that were current during the year 1927-28 as compared with those of the previous year;—

	1926-27.	1927-28.
Mining leases	47	45
Prospecting licenses	29	15
Collecting	5	4
Exploring	1	4
Certificates of approval	50	36
Total ..	132	104

The number of mining leases for gold remained the same as in previous year, *viz*: 22.

4. *Gold Mining Operations.*—Five Companies carried on gold mining operations during the year under report, and all of them were in the Kolar Gold Fields area. The total quantity of fine gold and silver produced during the year was 3,81,723 ozs., and 20,220 ozs., respectively as against 3,82,299 ozs., and 22,383 ozs. in 1926. The

total value of fine gold and silver produced amounted to £ 1,629,527 as against £ 1,633,848 resulting in a decrease of £ 4,321. All the gold produced, with the exception of some small quantities realised from cyanide slags, etc., was sold in India at favourable rates compared with London market quotations. The total amounts paid in dividends showed an increase of £ 2,749 being £ 3,11,917 against £ 3,09,168 in the previous year, and worked out at 18·70 per cent on the paid up capital as against 18·54 per cent in 1926. There was a reduction of £ 150 in the royalty due to Government, the amount paid being £ 88,876 against £ 89,026 in 1926. Calculated in terms of Indian currency, the total demand on account of royalty payable on gold and silver including the balance due from previous years amounted to Rs. 14,65,608 out of which Rs. 11,86,381 were collected leaving a balance of Rs. 2,79,228. From 1882 to the end of 1927, the total quantity of gold produced was 15,523,392 ozs., of the aggregate value of £ 67,172,452, the total dividends paid were £ 21,544,265 and the royalty realised was £ 3,538,786.

5. *Position of the Mines.*—In the year under report there was an increase in the working costs due to the adoption of improved methods of supporting underground workings. As regards ore reserves, the estimates for all the mines at the end of December 1927 amounted to 1,462,310 tons or a decrease of 5,112 tons as compared with those at the end of 1926.

6. *Other Minerals.*—The following table shows the output, etc., regarding minerals other than gold worked during the year:—

Minerals	Quantity extracted	Quantity exported or sold	Royalty payable for the year
	Tons	Tons	Rs. a. p.
1. Manganese	28,048	30,323	12,181 13 3
2. Chrome	26,115	29,289	23,686 8 0
3. Magnesite	2,373	2,018½	1,760 0 0 dead rent
4. Kaolin	2,333	1,010	1,929 0 0
5. Soapstone	64½	64½	50 0 0
6. Iron Ore	36,744	31,666	Consumed by the Iron Works.
7. Limestone (Higher Calcium)	436	3,059	
8. Dolomite	Nil	Nil	

7. *Inspections.*—In spite of the inadequacy of the staff, the inspection of the Mines on the Kolar Gold Fields area was systematic and satisfactory. No serious defects or violation of mining rules were noticed. Accidents of all kinds were promptly investigated and necessary action was taken. In addition to the above, blocks outside the Kolar Gold Fields were also inspected as detailed below:—

Mysore District	..	6
Shimoga ,,	..	2
Chitaldrug ,,	..	3
Hassan ,,	..	5
and Kolar ,,	..	2

Three fatal accidents occurred in mines outside the Kolar Gold Fields area.

The books and accounts of the Champion Reef Gold Mines were inspected by the Comptroller. Government wish to convey their thanks to the officers and staff of the Company for the co-operation rendered in conducting the examination of the said accounts.

8. *Mining Labour.*—During the year under report 21,822 persons were employed in the Mining Industry as against 21,431 in 1926 showing an increase of 391. Of this number, 18,918 were employed in gold mining, 1,163 on manganese, 873 on chromium, 595 on iron ore, 33 on limestone, 187 on magnesite, 40 on kaolin and 13 on soapstone. Of the 18,918 persons employed in gold mining, 333 were Europeans, 364 Anglo-Indians and 18,221 Indians. The conditions of work were ameliorated by better ventilation and the provision of riding facilities and the introduction of measures calculated to secure the personal safety of the employed.

9. *Accidents.*—The total number of accidents for the year was 221 as against 196 in the year previous. Of these, 36 were fatal, 177 serious and 9 non-mining.

10. *Compensation for Injuries.*—The total premia collected by the Companies for payment of compensation for injuries received in accidents was Rs. 43,704 as against Rs. 42,528 in the previous year; and the amount paid as compensation was Rs. 1,50,189 against Rs. 1,34,226 in 1926. The grant of compensation will, in future, be governed by the provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Regulation which has recently been enacted.

11. *Prosecutions.*—In connection with thefts, etc., of mining materials, 62 persons involved in 46 cases were prosecuted and 54 persons were convicted. Thirty-one persons were convicted for breach of rules, causing accidents, etc., as against 53 in 1926.

12. *Explosives.*—In the year under report 794 licenses were granted as against 737 in the previous year, resulting in an increase of 57 licenses. Reports of inspection of Government magazines in charge of Civil Officers received in the Chief Inspector's Office were scrutinised and the irregularities or defects requiring remedy were brought to the notice of the officers concerned. The number of inspections of explosives premises by the Magistracy and the Police was 320 as compared with 382 during 1926. It is unsatisfactory that there is no improvement in the number of these inspections. Government wish to impress on the authorities concerned, once again, the importance of thorough and systematic inspections with a view to the due improvement of the conditions of the licenses. Forty-five accidents due to explosives involving the death of 20 persons and serious injuries to 51 others were reported in the year under review as against 44, 11 and 47 respectively in 1926.

The question of removal of fireworks shops in the Bangalore City has been pending before the City Municipality for a long time. The District Magistrate, Bangalore, and the President, Bangalore City Municipality, are requested to expedite the disposal of this question.

N. RAMA RAO,
Secretary to Government,
Development Departments.

Appoints some additional non-official members to the Standing Committee of the Economic Conference.

READ—

Government Order No. D. 1525-90—E. C. 2-28-1, dated 7th August 1928, directing that the strength of the Standing Committee of the Economic Conference be increased by six members as indicated in the margin.

3 Non-official gentlemen (one to be selected from each of the Central Boards).
3 Non-official gentlemen (to be nominated directly by Government).

2. Letter No. 227, dated 19th September 1928, from the Secretary, Board of Education, stating that the Board have selected Mr. D. H. Chendrasekhariah, B.A., LL.B., Advocate, Davangere, to be nominated to the Standing Committee.

3. Letter No. C. 2, dated 20th October 1928, from the Secretary, Board of Agriculture, stating that Mr. Sylvester Pais was selected to be nominated to the Standing Committee.

4. Letter No. 688, dated 4th December 1928, from the Secretary, Board of Industries and Commerce, stating that Mr. D. S. Mallappa, Merchant, Tiptur, was chosen to represent to the Board of Industries and Commerce on the Standing Committee of the Economic Conference.

ORDER No. D. 6783-864—E. C. 2-28-4, DATED 2ND JANUARY 1929.

Government are pleased to approve of the appointment of the following additional non-official members to the Standing Committee :—

SELECTED BY THE CENTRAL BOARDS.

Mr. D. H. Chendrasekhariah, B.A., LL.B., (Board of Education).
„ Sylvester Pais, B.A., (Board of Agriculture).
„ D. S. Mallappa, (Board of Industries and Commerce).